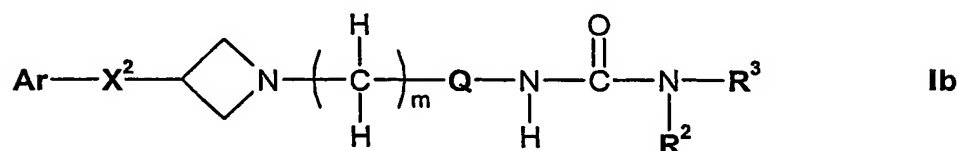
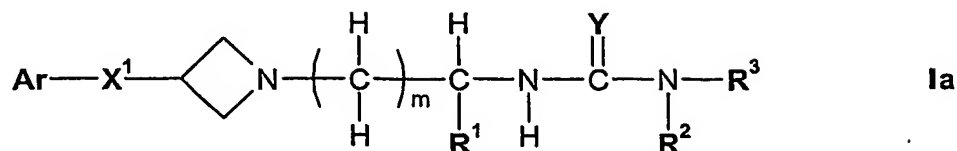


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula Ia or Ib



in free or salt form, where

Ar is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl, cyano or nitro;

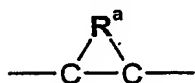
X¹ is -S-, -S(=O)- or -S(=O)₂-;

X² is -C(=O)-, -O-, -CH₂-, -S-, -S(=O)- or -S(=O)₂-;

m is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₈-alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₈-alkoxy, acyloxy, halogen, carboxy, C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbonyl, -N(R⁴)R⁵, -CON(R⁶)R⁷ or by a monovalent cyclic organic group having 3 to 15 atoms in the ring system;

Q has the formula



where R^a is C₁-C₈-alkylene,

or Q is -C(R^b)(R^c)- where R^b and R^c are independently C₁-C₈-alkyl

or R^b and R^c together form a C₃-C₁₀-cycloalkyl;

Y is oxygen or sulfur;

R² is hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl or C₃-C₁₀-cycloalkyl and R³ is C₁-C₈-alkyl substituted by phenyl, phenoxy, acyloxy or naphthyl, or R³ is C₃-C₁₀-cycloalkyl optionally having a benzo group fused thereto, a heterocyclic group having 5 to 11 ring atoms of which 1 to 4 are hetero atoms, phenyl or naphthyl, said phenyl, phenoxy or naphthyl groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, acyl, nitro, -SO₂NH₂, C₁-C₈-alkyl optionally substituted by C₁-C₈-alkoxy, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, C₁-C₈-alkoxy, C₁-C₈-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₈-alkylthio, -SO₂-C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₁-C₈-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₈-acylamino optionally substituted on the nitrogen atom by C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₁-C₈-alkylamino, aminocarbonyl,

C₁-C₈-alkylamino-carbonyl, di(C₁-C₈-alkyl)amino, di(C₁-C₈-alkyl)aminocarbonyl, di(C₁-C₈-alkyl)aminocarbonyl-methoxy,

or R² and R³ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached denote a heterocyclic group having 5 to 10 ring atoms of which 1, 2 or 3 are hetero atoms;

R⁴ and R⁵ are each independently hydrogen or C₁-C₈-alkyl, or R⁴ is hydrogen and R⁵ is hydroxy-C₁-C₈-alkyl, acyl, -SO₂R⁸ or -CON(R⁶)R⁷, or R⁴ and R⁵ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached denote a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group;

R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently hydrogen or C₁-C₈-alkyl, or R⁶ and R⁷ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached denote a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group; and R⁸ is C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₁-C₈-haloalkyl, or phenyl optionally substituted by C₁-C₈-alkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1, which is

(i) a compound of formula Ia in free or salt form, wherein

Ar is phenyl substituted by halo;

X¹ is -S-, -S(=O)- or -S(=O)₂-;

m is 2;

R¹ is C₁-C₈-alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy or C₁-C₈-alkoxy;

Y is oxygen;

R² is hydrogen; and

R³ is a heterocyclic group having 5 to 11 ring atoms of which 1 to 4 are hetero atoms;
or

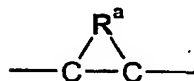
(ii) a compound of formula Ib in free or salt form, wherein

Ar is phenyl substituted by halo;

X² is -O-, -C(=O)- or -CH₂-;

m is 1 or 2;

Q has the formula



where R^a is C₁-C₈-alkylene,

or Q is -C(R^b)(R^c)- where R^b and R^c are independently C₁-C₈-alkyl

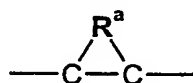
or R^b and R^c together form a C₃-C₁₀-cycloalkyl;

R² is hydrogen; and

R³ is a heterocyclic group having 5 to 11 ring atoms of which 1 to 4 are hetero atoms.

3. A compound according to claim 1, which is

- (i) a compound of formula Ia in free or salt form, wherein
 Ar is phenyl substituted by halo, preferably chloro;
 X^1 is $-S-$, $-S(=O)-$ or $-S(=O)_2-$;
 m is 2;
 R^1 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy;
 Y is oxygen;
 R^2 is hydrogen; and
 R^3 is a heterocyclic group having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms of which one, two, three or four, are hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, said heterocyclic group being optionally substituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy or C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl; or
- (ii) a compound of formula Ib in free or salt form, wherein
 Ar is phenyl substituted by halo, preferably chloro;
 X^2 is $-O-$, $-C(=O)-$ or $-CH_2-$;
 m is 1 or 2;
 Q has the formula



where R^a is C_1 - C_8 -alkylene,

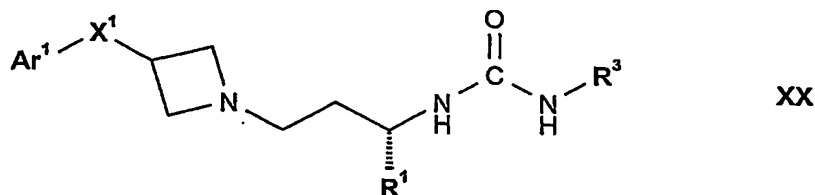
or Q is $-C(R^b)(R^c)-$ where R^b and R^c are independently C_1 - C_4 -alkyl

or R^b and R^c together form a C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl;

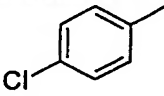


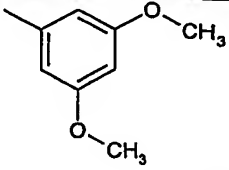
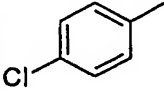


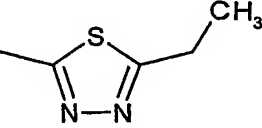
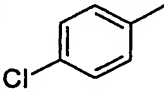


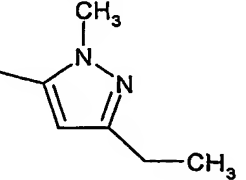
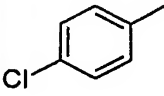


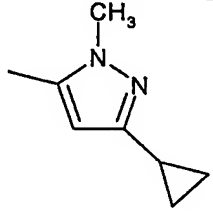
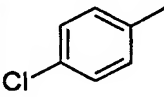


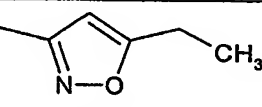
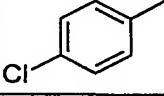


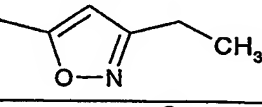
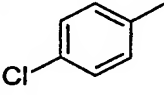

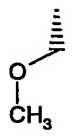
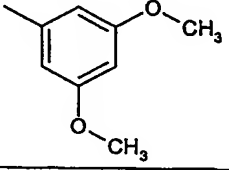
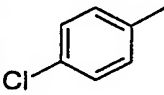

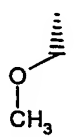
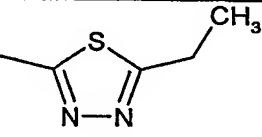
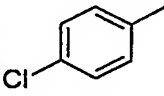

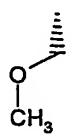
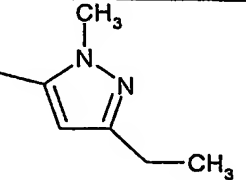
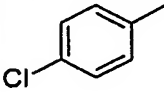

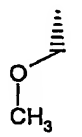
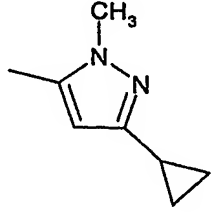
R^2 is hydrogen; and

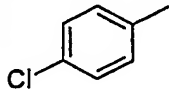
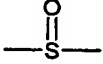
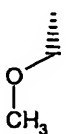
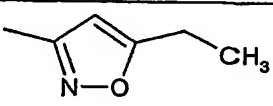
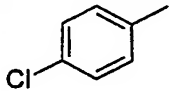
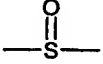
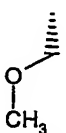
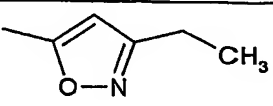
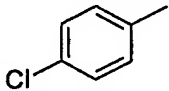
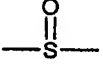

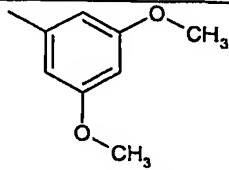
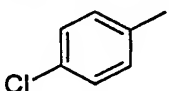
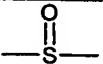

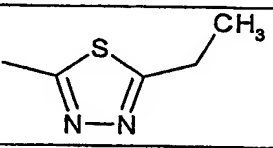
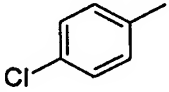
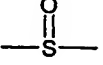

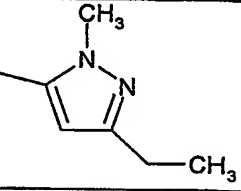
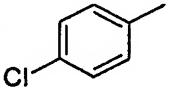
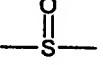

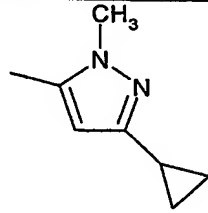
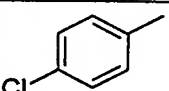
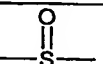

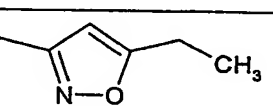
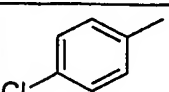
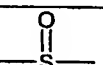

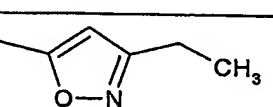
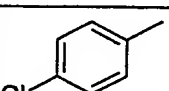
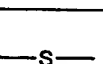
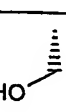
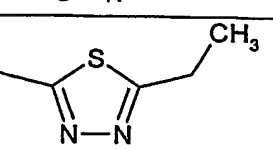
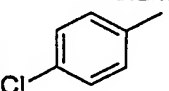
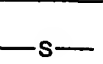
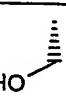
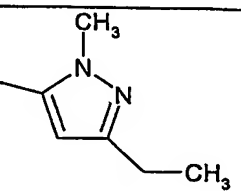
R^3 is a heterocyclic group having 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms of which one, two, three or four, are hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur, said heterocyclic group being optionally substituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl.

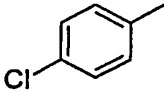


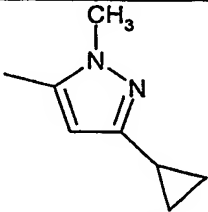
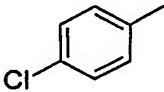
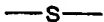

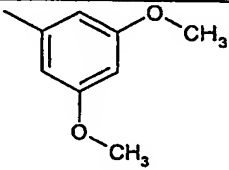
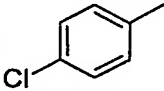


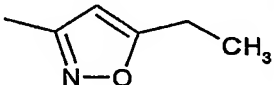
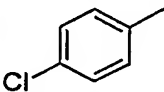
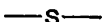

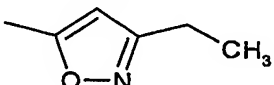
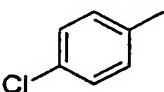
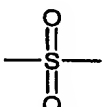

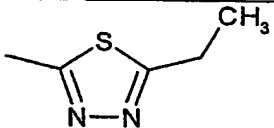
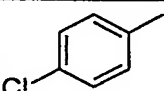
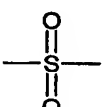

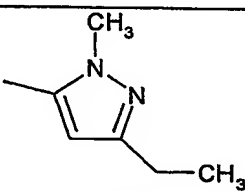
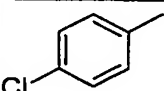
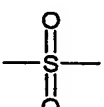

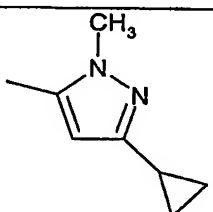
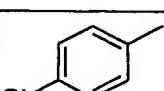
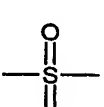

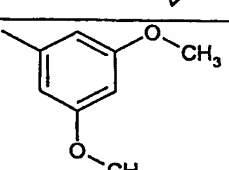
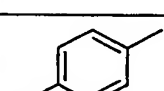
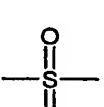

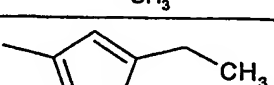
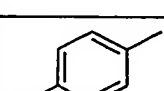
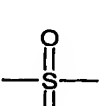

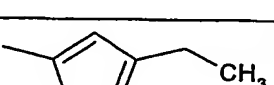
4. A compound according to claim 1 that is also either a compound of formula XX



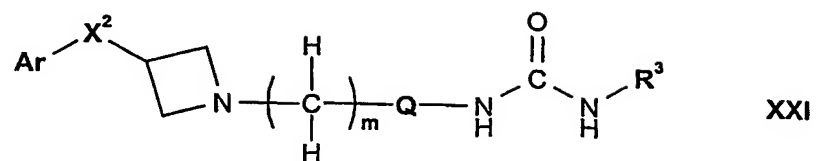
where Ar, X^1 and R^3 are as shown in the following table:

Ar	X	R ¹	R ³
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			

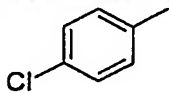

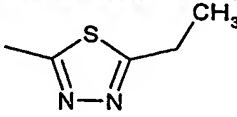
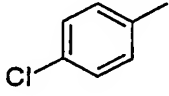

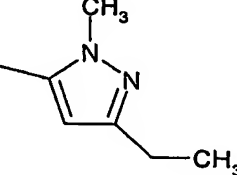
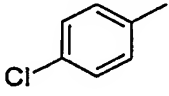

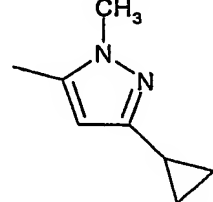
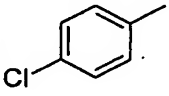
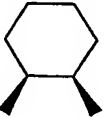
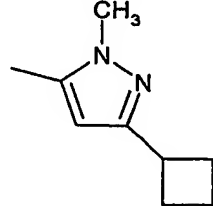
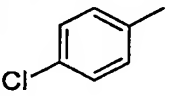
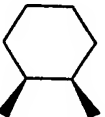
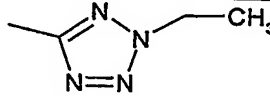
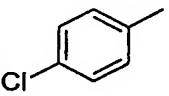
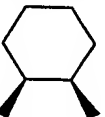
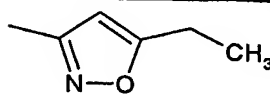
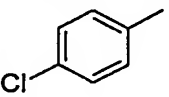
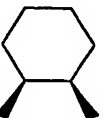
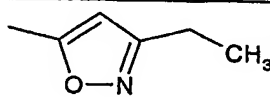
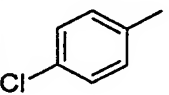

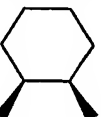
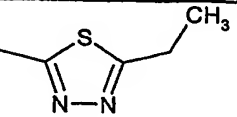
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			

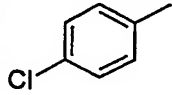


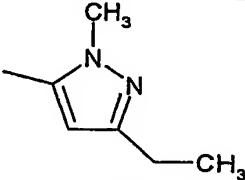
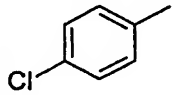


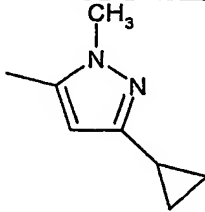
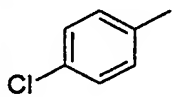


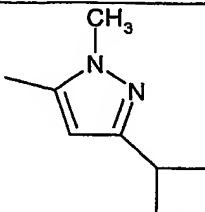
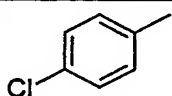


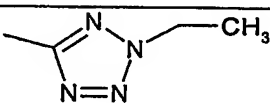
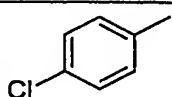


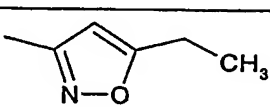
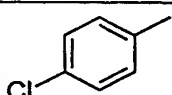


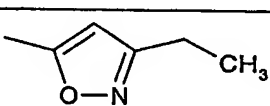
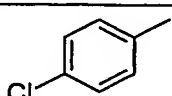
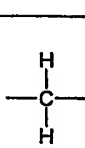
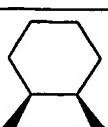
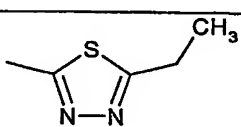
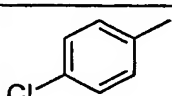
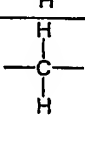
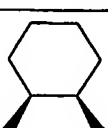
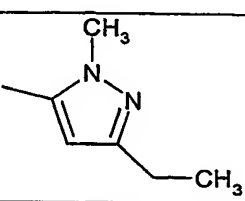
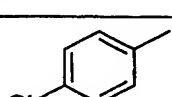
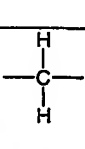
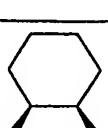
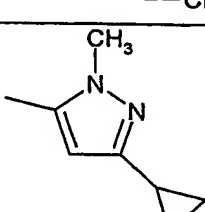
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			

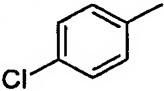

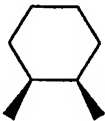
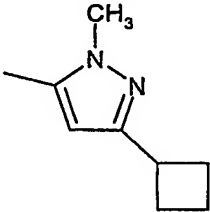
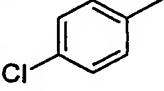

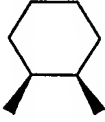
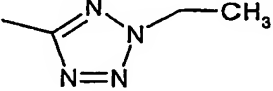
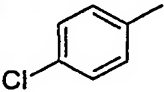

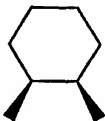
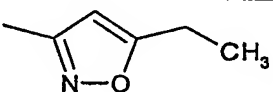
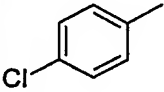


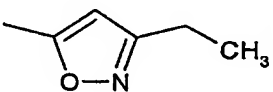
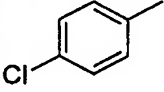

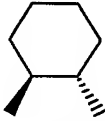
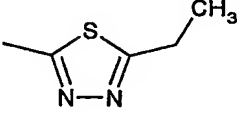
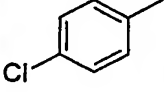

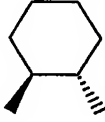
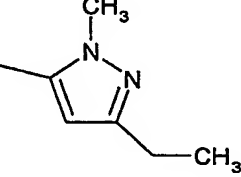
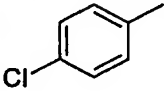

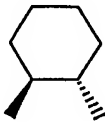
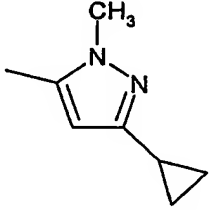
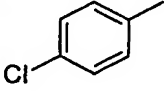


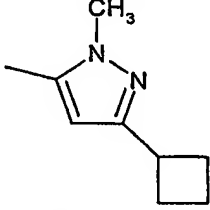
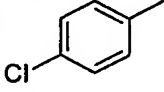

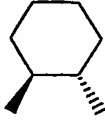
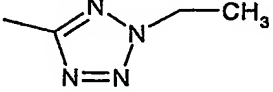
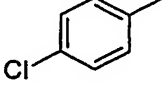

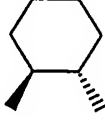
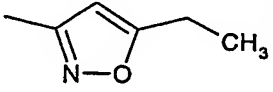
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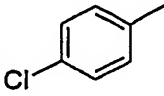


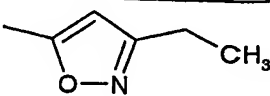
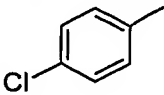


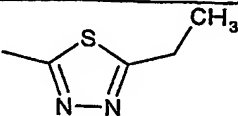
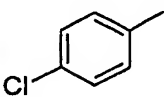


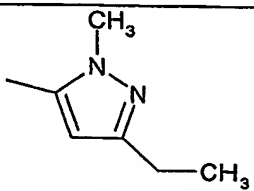
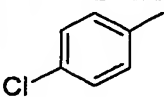


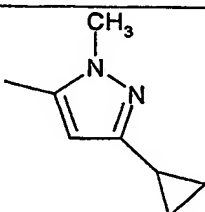
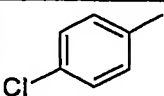


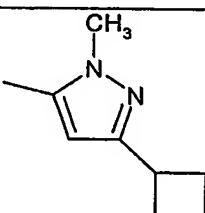
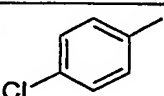

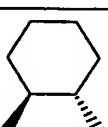
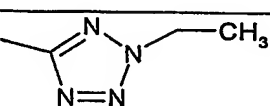
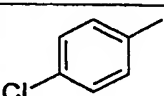

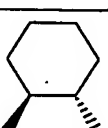
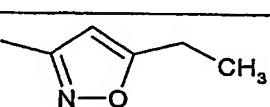
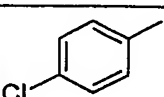

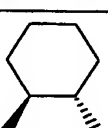
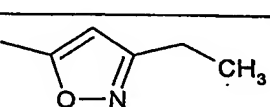
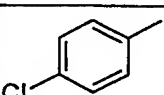
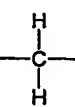
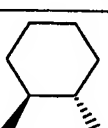
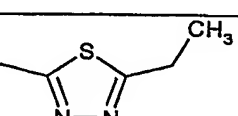
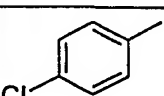
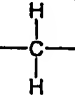
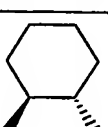
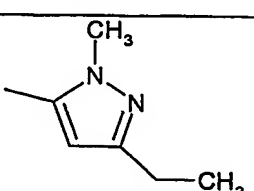


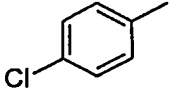


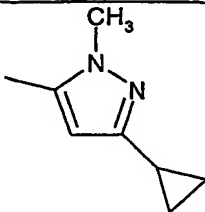
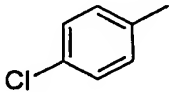


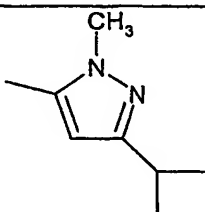
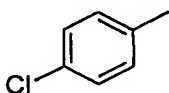

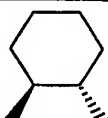
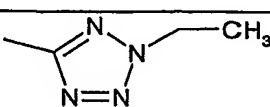
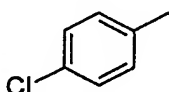

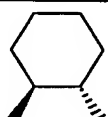
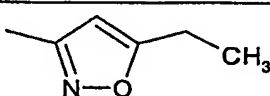
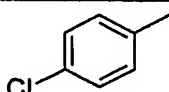

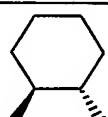
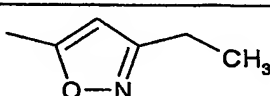
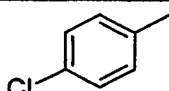


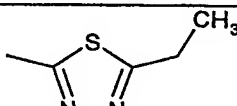
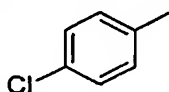


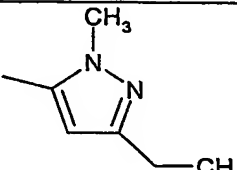
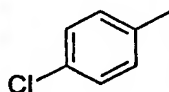


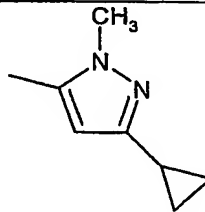
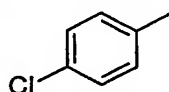


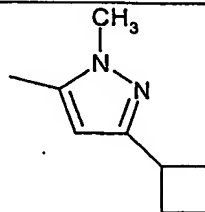
where Ar, X², m, Q and R³ are as shown in the following table:

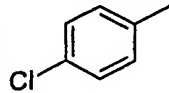

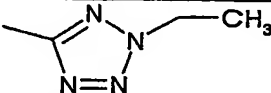
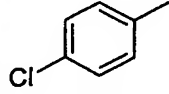

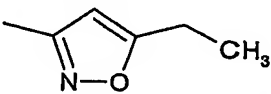
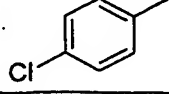

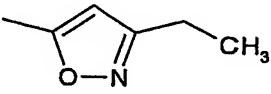
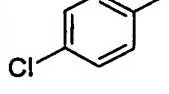


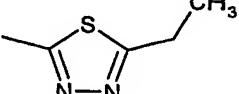
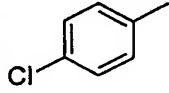


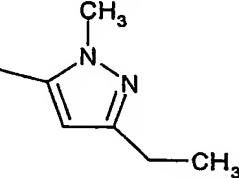
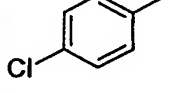


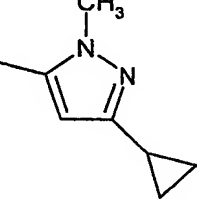
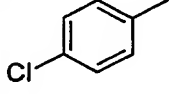


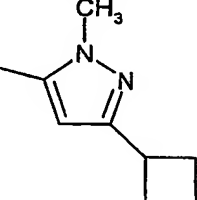
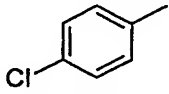


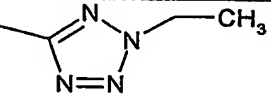
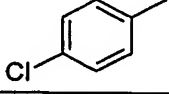


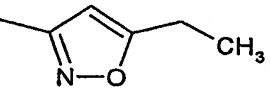
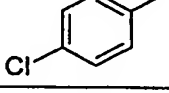


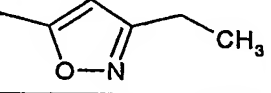
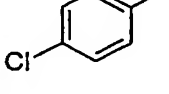


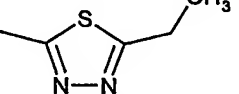
Ar	X	m	-Q-	R ³
	-O-	1		
	-O-	1		
	-O-	1		
	-O-	1		
	-O-	1		
	-O-	1		
	-O-	1		
		1		

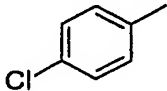
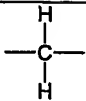

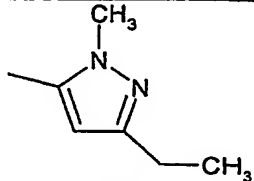
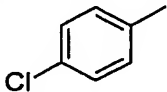
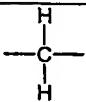

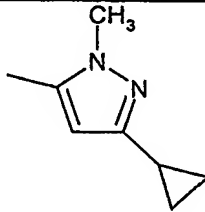
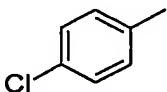
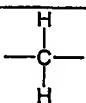

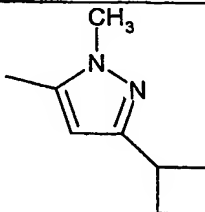
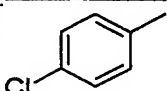
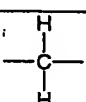

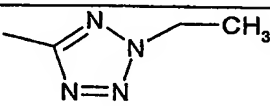
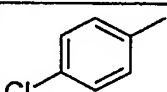
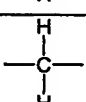

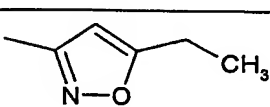
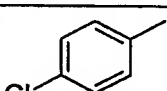
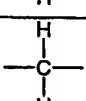

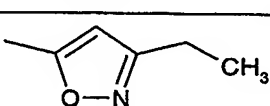
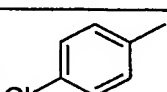

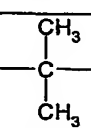
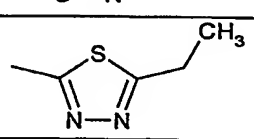
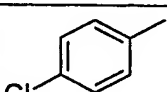

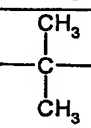
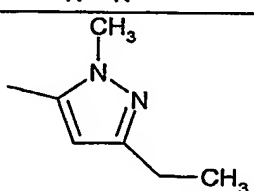
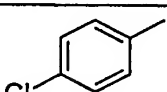

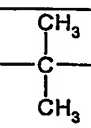
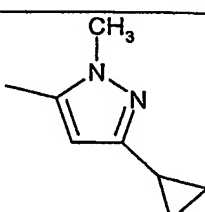
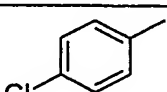

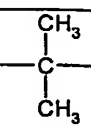
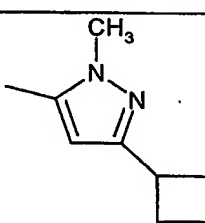
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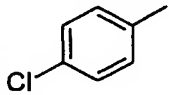
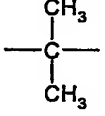
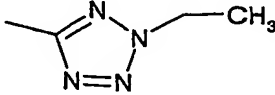
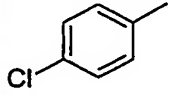
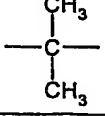
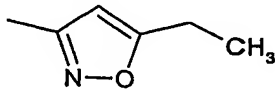
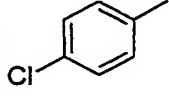
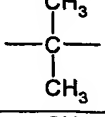
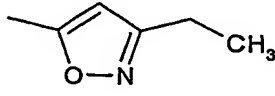
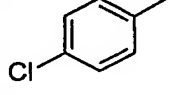

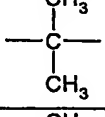
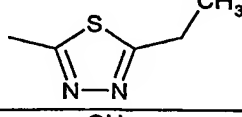
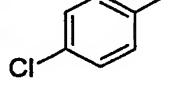

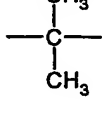
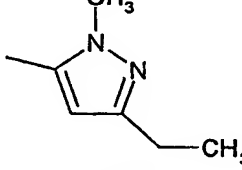
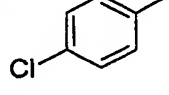

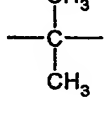
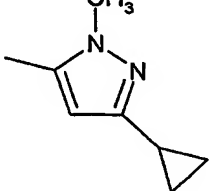
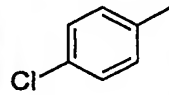

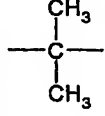
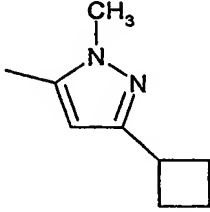
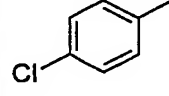

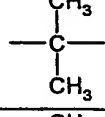
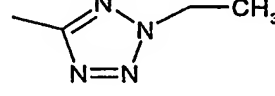
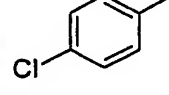

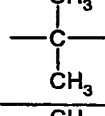
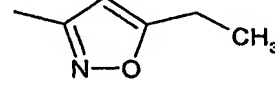
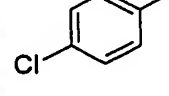

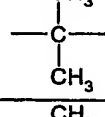
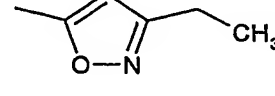
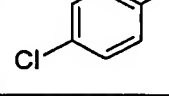

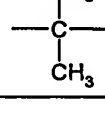
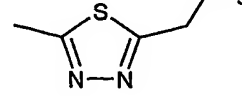
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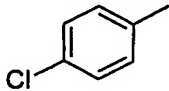

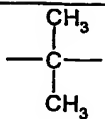
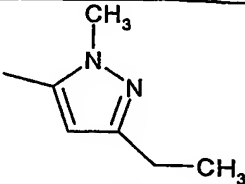
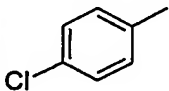

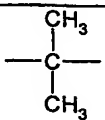
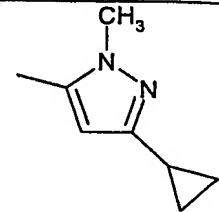
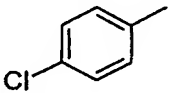

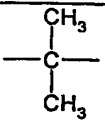
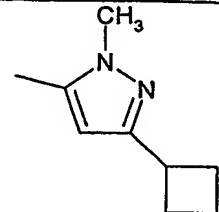
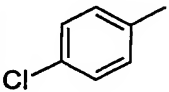

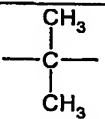
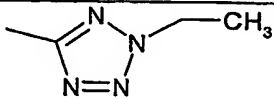
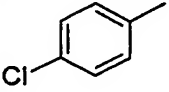

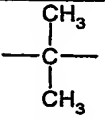
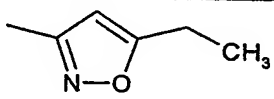
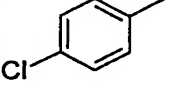

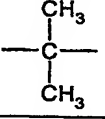
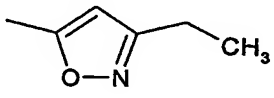
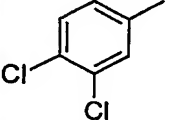


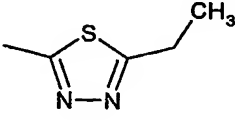
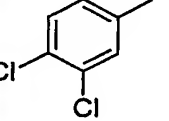

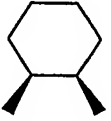
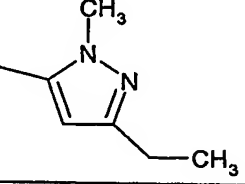
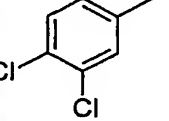


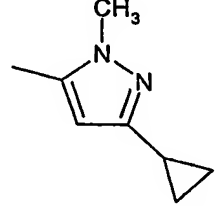
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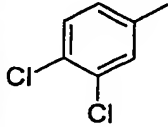

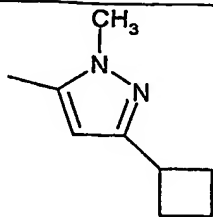
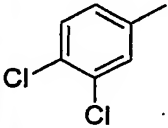
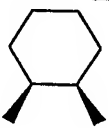
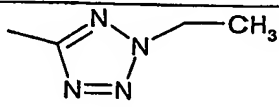
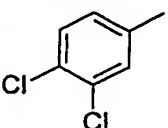
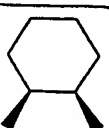
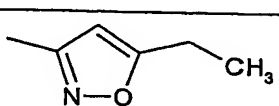
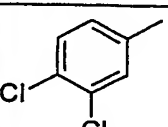
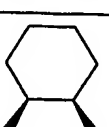
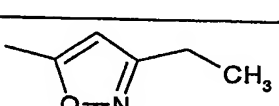
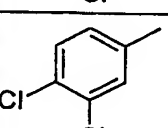
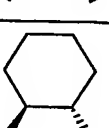
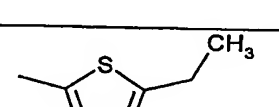
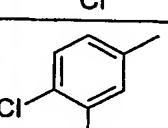
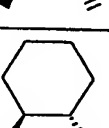
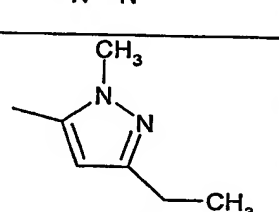
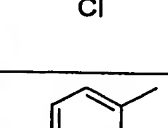

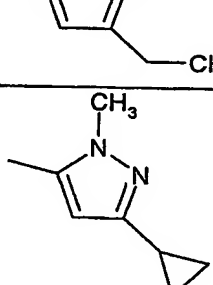
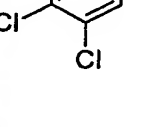
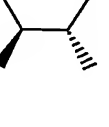
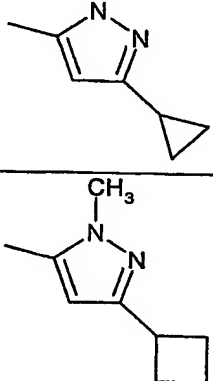
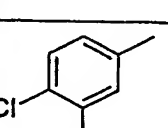
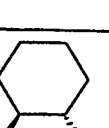
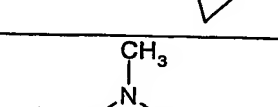
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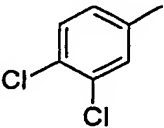

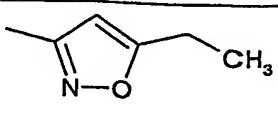
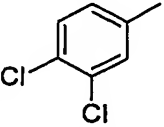

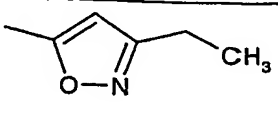
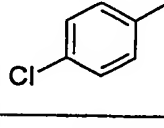

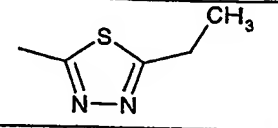
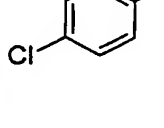
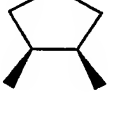
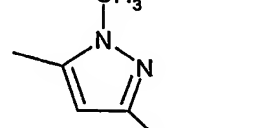
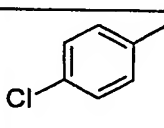
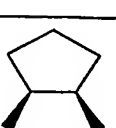
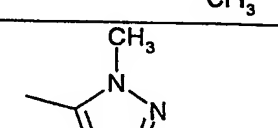
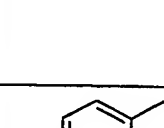

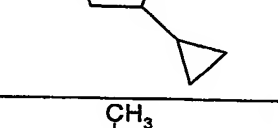
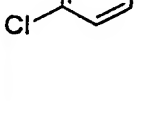
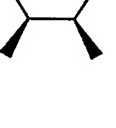
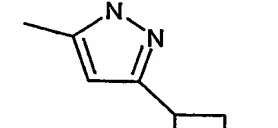
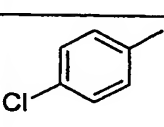
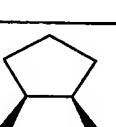
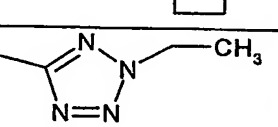
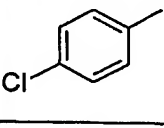

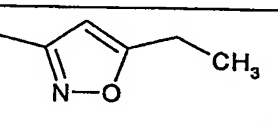
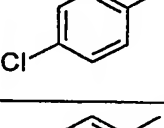
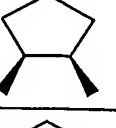
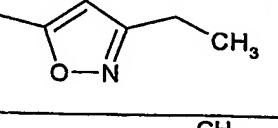
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5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims in combination with another drug substance which is an anti-inflammatory, a bronchodilator, an antihistamine or an anti-tussive substance.

6. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims for use as a pharmaceutical.

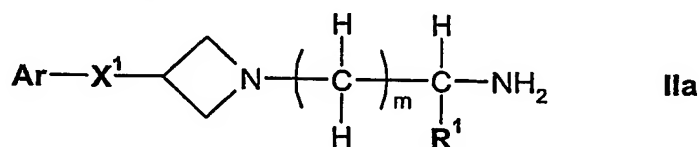
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4.

8. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition mediated by CCR-3.

9. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of an inflammatory or allergic condition, particularly an inflammatory or obstructive airways disease.

10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula Ia or Ib as claimed in claim 1 which comprises

- (i) (A) for the preparation of compounds of formula Ia where R^2 is hydrogen, reacting a compound of formula IIa

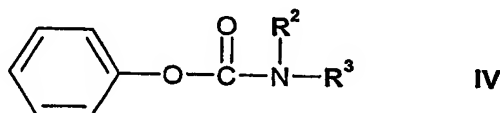


or a protected form thereof, where Ar, X^1 , m and R^1 are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula III



where Y and R^3 are as defined in claim 1; or

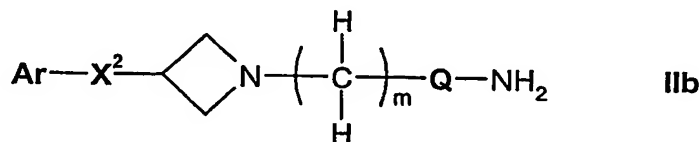
- (B) for the preparation of compounds of formula Ia where Y is oxygen, reacting a compound of formula IIa where Ar, X^1 , m and R^1 are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula IV



where R^2 and R^3 are as defined in claim 1; or

- (C) for the preparation of compounds of formula Ia where X^1 is $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2-$, oxidising a compound of formula Ia in protected form where X^1 is $-\text{S}-$ and Ar, m, R^1 , Y, R^2 and R^3 are as defined in claim 1;

- (D) for the preparation of compounds of formula Ib, reacting a compound of formula IIb



where Ar, X², m and Q are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula IV where R² and R³ are as defined in claim 1;

(E) for the preparation of compounds of formula Ib where R² is hydrogen, reacting a compound of formula IIb where Ar, X², m and Q are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula V



where R³ is as defined in claim 1; or

(F) for the preparation of compounds of formula Ib where X is -S(=O)₂-, oxidising a compound of formula Ib in protected form where X² is -S- and Ar, m, Q, R² and R³ are as defined in claim 1; and

(ii) recovering the product in free or salt form.